Three in a Row
Clear and cool tonight, low near 55. Fair and warm tomorrow, high near 80. Details: B-6.

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FBI Agents Enlarge Probes of Possible CIA Violations

By Orr Kelly
Washington Star Staff Writer

Agents of the FBI have been assigned by the Justice Department to investigate possible criminal actions involving the operations of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Robert Havel, spokesman for the department, said yesterday that the bureau agents were first called in to probe one aspect of the case several months ago, but he said their work had since been expanded to cover other aspects.

The FBI probe is linked to the work of a committee made up of 13 lawyers from the criminal division and three lawyers from the civil rights division who are studying possible violations of the criminal laws by both the CIA and the FBI.

THE WORK of the committee is being supervised by Kevin I. Maroney, a deputy assistant attorney general who has long worked with the CIA and the FBI. Also involved in the probe are Dep. Atty. Gen. Harold R. Tyler Jr., and Asst. Attys. Gen. Richard Thornburgh and J. Stanley Pottinger.

Assignment of agents from the FBI, which is sometimes seen as a rival to the CIA, to investigate the intelligence agency is a highly unusual step. Until recently, the CIA even had an agreement with the Justice Department that permitted agency officials to discipline agency employes, without notifying the Justice Department, even in cases involving possible violation of the criminal laws.

Havel refused to say what possible violations of the law were involved in the FBI's part of the investigation.

HOWEVER, information made available over the last eight months in newspaper reports, the report to President Ford by CIA Director William Colby, the Rockefeller Report and congressional investigations has opened up the possibility of violations of the criminal law in the following areas:

- Did Richard Helms, former CIA director and now ambassador to Iran, commit perjury when he told a Senate committee the CIA had not been involved in efforts to overthrow the Chilean government?
- Is anyone criminally responsible for the CIA's involvement in domestic spying?
- Did the CIA or its agents violate the law by opening mail without a warrant?
- Was there any violation of the law by the CIA in its reported involvement in assasination attempts against rulers of other countries?
- Did the CIA operate beyond its legal authority in other areas — and did this involve violation of the criminal laws?
- Did high ranking officials of the government order the CIA to carry out illegal activities — and, in the process, violate the criminal laws themselves?

The most likely areas for prosecution involve the perjury laws and those covering the sanctity of the mails.

On the other hand, Justice Department lawyers say, it is quite possible that the CIA, in its domestic spying efforts, overstepped its authority but not in such a way that any individual can be held responsible for violating the criminal laws.

So far, Havel said, the lawyers involved in the probe have not felt the need for help from professional investigators in their investigation of possible violations of the law by the FBI or its agents. If they should need such help, Havel said, investigators from another agency would be called in.